

UNITED STATES READY for WAR

ANY TIME, THANKS TO COLLEGE DOWN on the POTOMAC



U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE.

THE UNITED STATES was caught unprepared when it faced the civil war, it was thrown into the war with Spain with an abruptness which caught the heads of our army and naval forces napping, but never again will this nation suddenly find itself on the verge of a conflict with foes without or within its borders, without having a plan of action ready to meet the emergency, a plan drawn out to its most minute details ready to be put in action at an hour's notice.

Should it become necessary for our troops to land in a foreign port with warlike intent, as they did in Cuba, as they did in the Philippines, as they did later in China, they will not be handicapped by such a dense ignorance of the topographical conditions of the country and the condition of its defenses, as prevailed on those occasions.

The United States has learned its lesson. It was learned at Tampa, Fla., when our soldier boys starved while train loads of food stood on the railroad tracks almost by their side; it was learned at Santiago, and it was learned in the morasses of the Philippines.

And that lesson was that the time to prepare for war is during peace. The splendid success of the Japanese army and navy in the recent war was due to the fact that the Japanese generals had taken the lesson to heart and profited by it. And that lesson the United States has written in large letters in its war department, "Always be prepared."

ON a neck of land in the Potomac river, a mile or more from any private building, and reached only by a drive through the old Washington Barracks is the Army War College.

Quietly and without the least publicity that institution has been in existence for four years, storing away in vaults and chart rooms maps and plans that may never see the light of day, but which, if needed, may prove of incalculable value. There will be planned out any future conflict which the United States may find itself embroiled in. There, even now, are being planned out campaigns which will probably never be executed, campaigns which are but a remote possibility, and yet, they are part of the whole system.

While the secret service and spy system of Russia and Germany has become known over the entire world, known as somewhat that existed even if its operations were mysterious and devious, the average American has been wont to depreciate his own war department, to consider it merely an organization with a secretary at the head who knew absolutely nothing of its details, and that the whole was a mistake. He does not realize the immense strides which the War Department of the United States has made in recent years, and the two greatest of these strides were the founding of the War College and the founding of the War College.

Elihu Root Began It
Elihu Root is directly responsible for them both. Succeeding Secretary Alger as Secretary of War at the close of the Spanish war he looked about him to see where the weak spots had shown themselves in our military policy, and he found them. In the first place he found that there was no system in the work of preparation. He found that while every officer was going about his own allotted work in whatever manner there was no man or body of men who was looking through a telescope at the future, who was laying by the plans and maps, such as other nations have been doing. He saw the Secretary of War standing practically alone with the entire responsibility on his own shoulders. He had his military advisers, but there was no organization.

He went to Congress and he laid the two propositions before it. With his clear, logical reasoning, he made it plain to its members that what he wanted was absolutely necessary—and he got it. It passed two appropriations in 1902 and 1904 for the purpose of establishing the War College, and as it stands today beside the flowing waters of the Potomac it is a monument to the sagacity of Secretary Root. He was successful too in getting Congress to adopt his plan for the general staff, and now forty of the ablest generals of the American army are detailed as members, with Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, at the head. He is practically the military secretary of War.

wanted was absolutely necessary—and he got it. It passed two appropriations in 1902 and 1904 for the purpose of establishing the War College, and as it stands today beside the flowing waters of the Potomac it is a monument to the sagacity of Secretary Root. He was successful too in getting Congress to adopt his plan for the general staff, and now forty of the ablest generals of the American army are detailed as members, with Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, at the head. He is practically the military secretary of War.

Most Exclusive Institution

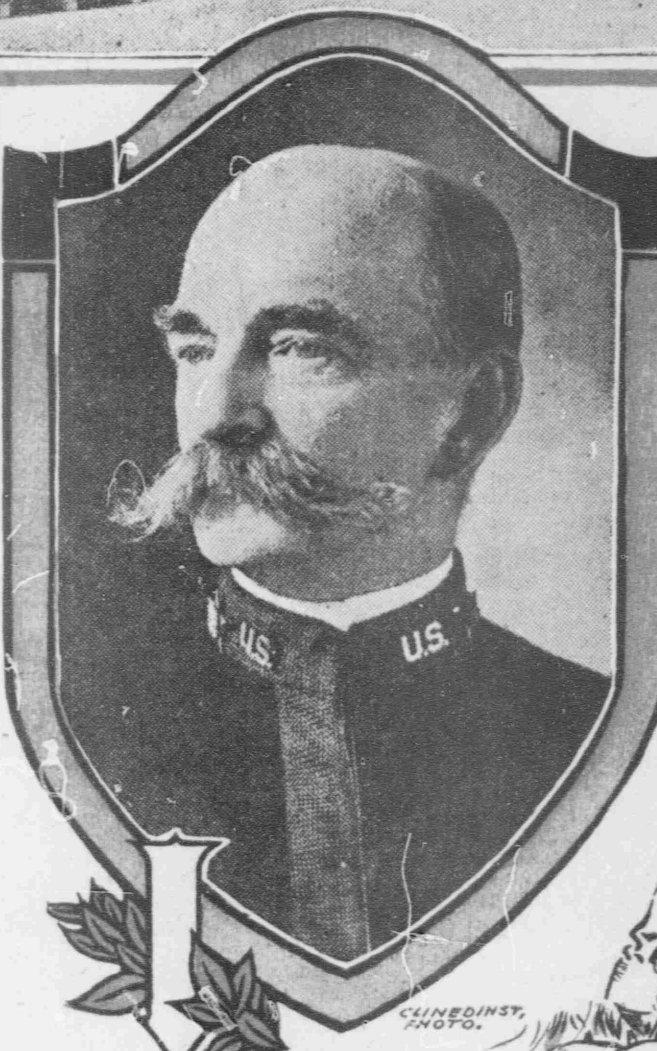
The Army War College in addition to being a place where campaigns are planned and provision made for the future is one of the most exclusive educational institutions in the world. It is the culmination of the educational system of the army, and is a training school for candidates for the general staff. Here officers receive their final training in the duties of higher command. No young lieutenants imbibe at this font of military wisdom. Only seasoned veterans, and those who have proved themselves the brainiest of their fellows are bidden to enter its walls and drink deep of the knowledge that is brewed there.

Its students are selected by a process of elimination. All graduates of West Point go to the Garrison School, and then to the Service School as they progress in rank. But none but the brightest go to the War College. At the head of the faculty, which is shifting, is Brig. Gen. William W. Wotherspoon, a member of the general staff, whose honorable services sit lightly upon his shoulders. He is a man of brains, a man who has won bloodless battles by his planning as well as bloody ones when it came to a conflict.

Where Policies Are Mapped.

It is not at the War Department offices that the military policies of the United States are mapped out now. It is down in the veritable Temple of Mars beside the softly flowing Potomac. Whenever President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft and Gen. Franklin Bell and other officials and officers desire to consider or plan a military movement it is not in the White House that it is worked out, it is not in the big office building on Pennsylvania avenue where the War Department is located, but it is in the Army War College, where they may have any desired plan or data at their disposal.

When Cuba was disrupted by turmoil and the clouds of insurrection hung threateningly overhead, and it was feared that once more the island



Brig. Gen. WOTHERSPOON, PRESIDENT OF WAR COLLEGE.

was to be plunged into civil war and bloodshed, Secretary Taft went to Havana, and tried to conciliate the warring factions. Suddenly, without the fact, 10,000 troops were mobilized and transported to the island and landed at strategic points along the coast line. The would-be rebels were overawed, the island was saved from bloodshed and revolution. It was one of the most remarkable bloodless victories ever accomplished. And two months before that had been planned out down at the War College around a great oak table.

Just Like Clock Work.

The plan of mobilization, of transportation, and of landing at different points along the shore was mapped out in detail. Provision for food and supplies were perfect; everything moved like clockwork. That was the first time the War College and the general staff were called upon to prove their worth, and they proved it. It was a brilliant coup. The American public did not realize what was going on. Correspondents flocked to Havana and chronicled the doings of Secretary Taft and the leaders of the opposing Cuban factions. And suddenly the whole threatened revolution was snuffed out as completely as though it had been a single candle. It was simply a matter of overawing the natives, of demonstrating to them in a forceful manner that the United States was master of the situation, and would spank any little native generals who aspired to become revolutionary leaders.

Many days and many nights did President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft and various high officials of the army and navy visit the War College prior to the sailing of the great American fleet to the Pacific. The cruise was planned there in its every detail, and then when everything was ready, the order to take on ammunition and supplies and coal were given at various points, the great armada concentrated at New York, and sailed away to carry the American flag around the world. What the exact purpose of that trip is has never been officially explained. It may have been a demonstration for the particular benefit of the precocious little Japs, and it may not have been. Whatever its purpose, it was a deep laid one, and was well worked out before the preliminary orders were given. Once on the move there was no let-up. The entire program was carried through with a precision that astonished the world.

Few Know About It.

The War College building is one of the most beautiful specimens of architecture in the country. A score of workmen have been at work for a year in laying out the grounds which will surround it, broad expanses of lawn, with walks and roadways, and shade trees. Many thousands of per-

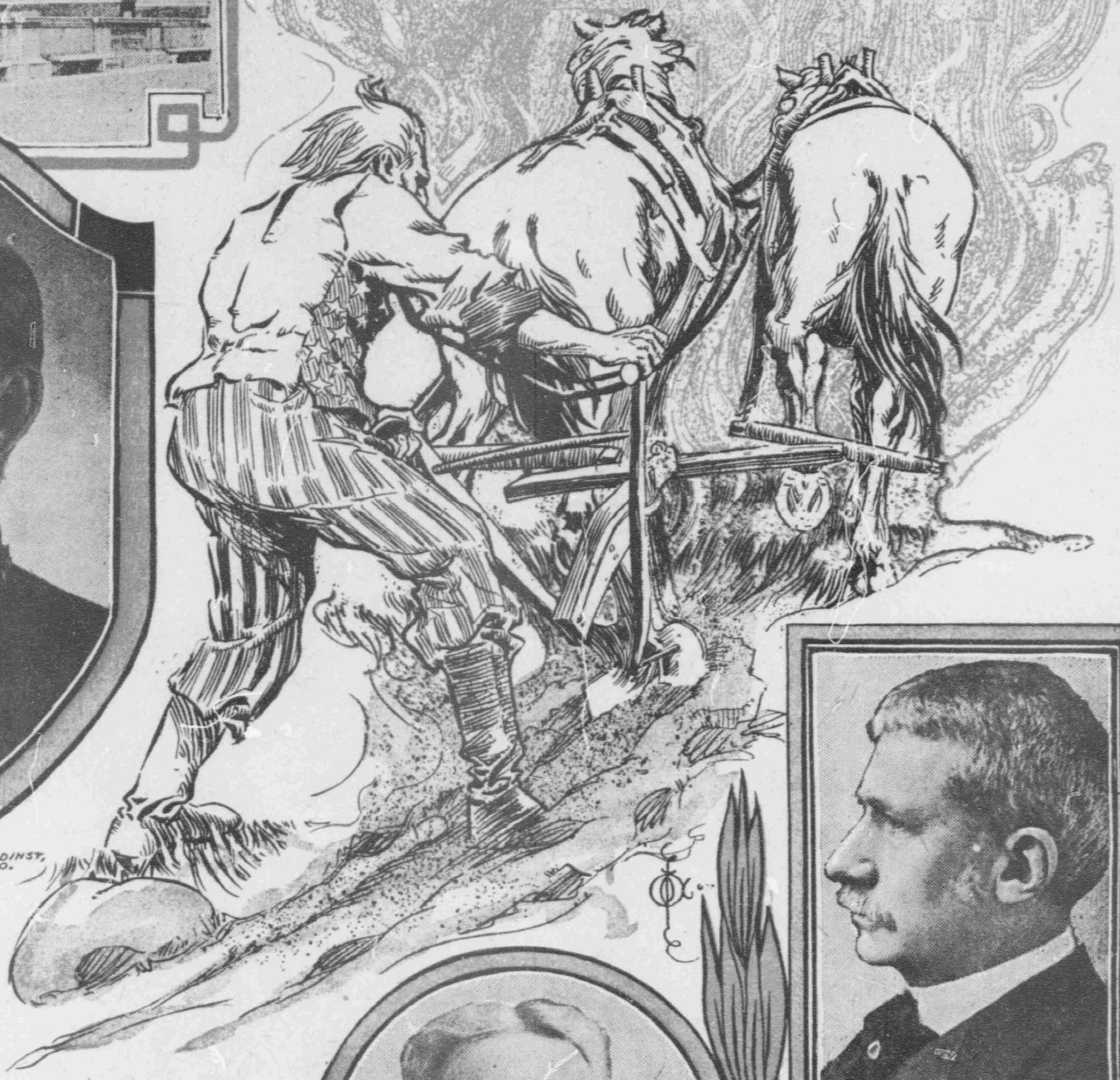
sons have sailed down the Potomac river on excursion boats and gazed on the beautiful building, ignorant of its identity.

"What's that fine building there on the point of land?" is often heard, and generally the answer is, "I don't know." That shows in a way how quietly the entire work of establishing the great institution has been performed. Go to General Bell, and ask him about it, and the face of that warrior will change, and he'll look disappointed. He does not want to give it any publicity, and he is very frank in admitting it. The people of the country may be informed of the workings of other branches of the War Department work in great detail. When the balloon tests are being made at Fort Myer nothing is concealed. The representatives of European nations are greeted cordially, and General Allan, head of the Signal Corps, explains the workings of the ships and aeroplanes with pleasure. There is nothing to keep secret. But the War College—an, that is another matter. The War Department is perfectly willing to allow the people of the nation to deprecate their system of training officers and preparing for war. Its officials do not care so long as they are doing their work.

Interior of War College.

On the main floor of the college is a large rotunda, where a bust of Napoleon occupies a conspicuous place. The grained arches of the ceiling cannot be excelled. On the left is the great long chart room, lined on all sides with steel fire-proof chart cases. At one end, a few draftsmen are industriously at work, probably copying some precious plans of a foreign port, or the channels and approaches to a foreign stronghold. In this chart room also are maps of every city of any size in the United States.

The sources of water supply and the public lighting stations are conspicuously marked on these. In the event of a general riot, where the mob may attempt to secure control of the city and it is necessary to call in the aid of the Government these maps are invaluable, for the water supply and the lighting stations are vulnerable points, and are the first to be protected from lawless mobs. Three sets of these maps are made. Then such an affair as the recent rioting at Springfield, Ill., or the great Chicago strike, where it is necessary to call in the State militia or the Federal troops these maps are distributed, one to the chief of police of the city, one to the commanding officer of the State troops, and one to the officer in charge of the Federal forces. Guards are thrown about the sources of the water



General J. FRANKLIN BELL.

supply and public lighting, and immediately all danger of a water famine or darkness under which evil deeds may be done, are anticipated.

Study of Military Strategy.

On the other side of the great rotunda, with its lofty grained arches, is the library, which is stored with books of military lore. The study of military strategy is largely a study of the movements of troops in different wars. One of the highest officers of the United States army recently remarked that mathematics does not amount to as much in the making of an officer as does common sense and a retentive memory of the history of wars. This is one of the principal studies of officers who are ordered to the war college for special preparation, to study military history. Every great battle is fought over again on paper, and the errors of one side or the other pointed out, errors which had they been seen at the time would have in almost every case turned the tide of the battle.

Just beyond this library is the office of the president of the college, who, by ringing a bell, can have any of this great store of military information at his hand in a minute.

The lecture hall is unsurpassed for beauty, arrangement, and ventilation in the country. Large American flags are twined about the walls. A system of forcing air up under the seats and carrying it off through the ceiling keeps the atmosphere clear and the air fresh at all times. The tiers upon which the seats are arranged are of cement.

Big Vault in Basement.

Down in the basement is a large vault which would put most of the steel vaults of banking institutions to shame. Here is where all the more valuable and secret plans and maps are kept, and here, too, are stored away where they can be reached at a moment's notice the campaigns which have been planned out at the War College in time of peace. In the basement, too, is an elaborate photographic room.

Americans have little need to fear that an enemy will catch us unawares. Down at the War College the brains of Uncle Sam's army is throwing a searchlight on the future.

When the architects designed the building they made a plan for placing the statues of twelve great foreign generals out on the plaza in front of



Secretary ELIHU ROOT.

the building. Only one of these places is adorned. Frederick the Great in bronze stands there in lonely majesty. The statue is the gift of Emperor William of Germany. These statues must come as gifts, and it may be many, many years before a dozen great warriors of the world stand up in a line before the war college. Shortly after Frederick the Great began his vigil, an anarchist, an ardent hater of Emperor William, attached a bomb to Frederick's bronze leg, ignited the fuse, and ran. A workman who observed the operation succeeded in detaching the infernal machine and snuffing out the fuse in time to save the great general from being blown off his pedestal.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

It is not the long day but the heart that does the work.—Italian.

Little Rastus—I dreamed last night I found two watermelons, but I frowed 'em bote away.

"Frowed 'em away, chile, why?"
"Cos I knowed if I tried to eat 'em, I'd waite up."—Boston Record.

"Batter up!" the umpire cries.
To make the players bump;
And presently some player tries
To do it to the ump.—Boston Traveler.

Fenton—At first he was simply crazy about her, but now he neglects her shamefully.

Sloanes—I see. At first he went out of his mind, and then she went out of his mind.—Stray Stories.

New Neighbor (In Chicago)—Good morning, my little dear. I saw you out walking with a very fine-looking gentleman last evening. Is he your papa?
Little Girl—Yesir, an' he's one of the nicest papas I ever had.—New York Weekly.

Circumstances are beyond the control of man, but his conduct is in his own power.—Beaumont.

There's nothing makes a woman have more love and less respect for her husband than for him to be willing to dress the children.—New York Press.

Guest (In restaurant)—I say, waiter, have you any oysters?
Waiter—No, sah. We ain't got no shell fish 'ceptin' eggs, sah.—Chicago News.

SPELL IT "SHEARMAN."
Two aunts of James S. Shearman, Taft's running mate, spell their name "Shearman."